

To: Schmittdiel, Paula[Schmittdiel.Paula@epa.gov]; Fagen, Elizabeth[Fagen.Elizabeth@epa.gov]
From: John Merrill
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 4:49:25 PM
Subject: Hyperspectral Imaging Response to the Animas River Toxic Spill

Paula Schmittdiel and Liz Fagen,

I am writing you in regards to the Animas River toxic spill. My name is John Merrill and I am the Operations Officer at Galileo Group, Inc. (<http://galileo-gp.com/>). My company specializes in advanced remote sensing technologies with a strong concentration in airborne hyperspectral imaging. I have personally led dozens of airborne mapping projects across the world using this advanced technology to identify, quantify and analyze environmental contaminants. Most notably, I completed a highly successful multi-temporal monitoring of coastal wetlands and beaches during and after the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. This was an unpaid project and the data was donated to over a dozen universities and research institutes including JPL, USF and LSU. My goal in writing you is to put together a similar project for this current crisis.

Airborne hyperspectral imaging offers the unparalleled capacity to rapidly create a comprehensive map of chemical concentrations throughout an entire river basin. This is a tremendous improvement in terms of scope, speed and complexity over site specific point source measurements. In the short term, we can easily map the entire affected area and have GIS ready maps and shapefiles for each chemical of concern in a matter of days. Longer term monitoring efforts would also benefit from multi-temporal airborne collections. This would provide the ability to have comprehensive maps of the entire area supported by scientifically defensible and completely customizable analysis results.

To get a better idea of the possibilities at play and to see some of my company's past performance, please feel free to download Galileo Group's General Application PowerPoint Presentation from my FTP:

<https://galileo.egnyte.com/dl/D2AxvEqUn8>

I would be happy to work with you to develop an action plan to move efforts forward and get my team deployed. Please feel free to contact me anytime or forward my contact information to any interested parties.

Best regards,

John

John Merrill

Operations Officer

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